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SECURITY INFORMATION

German Democratic Republic

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING NEW URANIUM MINES IN WIESENBAD/ERZGEBIRGE

Two new uranium mines have been put into operation in Wiesenbad/Erzgebirge, located in Kreis Annaberg, which, together with Kreise Marienberg and Schwarzenberg-Johanngeorgenstadt, belongs to the key projects of the Wismut AG. All farmers who owned land in this area (Mildenau, Wiesenbad, "Hohenwendel" Manor) were expropriated without compensation. Likewise, nearly all inhabitants of Wiesenbad, Plattenthal, and Mildenau, and also some residents of Wolkenstein, were evacuated from their homes, without being compensated and without being provided with substitute housing. Mine workers were billeted in the evacuated quarters, and the FDGB (League of Free German Trade Unions) training school was moved out of the "Hohenwendel" castle, which now serves as the administrative headquarters of the Wismut AG. Part of the dismantled Plattenthal paper factory is used to house mine workers, and part is used for ore-processing installations.

The uranium yield is low and is disproportionate to the expenses, which must be borne solely by the German population. Recently there has been a steady decline in the mine workers' morale, caused by poor and inadequate food, an increase in the number of special shifts, and the oppression of the civilian population. When the workers of the Annaberg main shaft were called to a plant meeting on 15 November 1951, and reproached because a labor force of 450 men had mined only 6½ tons of profitable ore, that is, rock containing pitchblende, during the month of October 1951, actual fighting broke out between the miners and the People's Police guard details and some mining-administration employees.

The mined rock with pitchblende-content is loaded into lead-sealed crates and is immediately shipped east under Soviet guard. Because of the sharp increase in the number of deserters from among the forced laborers in the mines, patrol duty around the restricted area by People's Police and Soviet guards has been increased, as has inspection of passenger and freight trains leaving the restricted area.

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MINISTER SELBMANN'S SPEECH BEFORE TECHNICAL SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL, 9 NOV 51

the speech the Minister of Heavy Industry, Selbmann, made at the meeting of the Technical Scientific Council of the Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy on 9 November 1951.

At the opening of his speech Selbmann announced the reorganization of the Ministry of Heavy Industry. He said two independent state secretariats were formed, one for coal and power, the other for chemistry and stones and earths. He also announced the reorganization of the Ministry of Reconstruction, of which the construction industry is now a branch.

He admitted that in the last year mistakes were made in planning operations and industrial production and, in an effort to remedy these defects, he made three suggestions for members of the Technical Scientific Council. 1) Members of the Council are to make themselves available to give opinions and advice concerning the great industrial projects of 1952, so that more efficient planning and better economy of operation can be achieved. 2) Council members are also to serve on a commission to inspect new investment projects. This commission is to have the responsibility of determining when a new installation is ready to start operating. The theory behind this suggestion is that in this manner a project will not be approved until a number of experts are satisfied with the plans and their execution. 3) Council members are to serve on committees to study and set up capacity norms for the various industries. Selbmann claimed that this procedure would result in substantially increased norms and production. The Council accepted these suggestions.

Next, the speaker told of two important problems of heavy industry which were solved: 1) the smelting of acid ores in short-shaft blast furnaces and 2) the manufacture of high-temperature coke from soft coal for use in metallurgy.

Selbmann then gave a recapitulation of the law concerning the Five-Year Plan and gave a very detailed and lengthy account of the planned increase in production in all branches of industry, agriculture, transportation, public health institutions, etc., giving actual figures which are to be reached in 1955.

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Then followed an explanation of investment activity in ore mining, the iron industry, and the non-ferrous metals industry. He went into details concerning the expansion and improvement of mining shafts and of blast furnaces.

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